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(TEXT)

WASHINGTON -- TEXT OF PRESS SECRETARY SALINGER'S STATEMENT ON FORMER VICE PRESIDENT NIXON'S PUBLISHED COMMENTS ABOUT CUBA:

"THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS ARE A PROPER SUBJECT OF PUBLIC DEBATE BUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE ACCOUNT IN MR. NIXON'S BOOK IT IS NECESSARY TO SAY THAT THE THEN SEN. KENNEDY WAS NOT TOLD BEFORE THE ELECTION OF 1960 OF THE TRAINING OF TROOPS OUTSIDE OF CUBA OR OF ANY PLANS FOR 'SUPPORTING AN INVASION IN CUBA.'

"MR. NIXON'S ACCOUNT IS APPARENTLY BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING. SEN. KENNEDY RECEIVED TWO BRIEFINGS FROM MR. ALLEN DULLES ON THE CIA. THE FIRST ON JULY 23, 1960, AND THE SECOND ON SEPT. 19, 1960. THE TWO BRIEFINGS COVERED AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE WORLD SITUATION DURING WHICH CUBA WAS MENTIONED. BUT SEN. KENNEDY WAS FIRST INFORMED OF THE OPERATION TO WHICH MR. NIXON REFERS IN A BRIEFING BY ALLEN DULLES AND RICHARD BISSEL OF THE CIA GIVEN IN PALM BEACH, FLA., ON NOV. 18, 1960."

(END TEXT)

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